

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/783,992

Applicant(s)

PETRATTO, GIORGIO

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06 December 2005 amendment, 14 February 2006 interview.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4-12.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 02/14/06.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 6, 2005 has been entered.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph J Zito on February 14, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 4, in line 1 after "A clamp for connecting bars, " deleted "and comprising a" and replaced with --comprising: a--.

In claim 4, in line 4 after "is defined by four separate" deleted "plane" and replaced with --planar--.

In claim 11, in line 12 after "one of said ends of" deleted "said first adjacent plate" and replaced with --each of said first adjacent plates--.

In claim 11, in line 13 after "complementary opposing end of" deleted "said

second adjacent plate” and replaced with --each of said second adjacent plates--.

In claim 11, in line 14 before “guides each being defined” deleted “said” and replaced with --a pair of prismatic guides formed within each pair of facing plates, said pairs of--.

In claim 11, in line 16 after “that said plates are” inserted --structurally--.

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1 and 8, Grundy (US 4,171,838) discloses the claimed clamp with the exception of the plates of the first pair being perpendicular to the plates of the second pair, the plates being connected substantially along the edges of the body; and each plate of the first pair having its first and second connections ends engaged with respective connection ends of respective plates of the second pair; wherein the plates of the first pair comprise recesses along their respective third ends and face one another to form the first prismatic guide of the body; and the plates of the second pair comprise recesses along their respective fourth ends and face one another to form the second prismatic guide of the body.

As to claim 11, Grundy discloses the claimed clamp with the exception of one of the ends of each of the first adjacent plates engaging the respective complementary opposing end of each of the second adjacent plates to form the edge; a pair of prismatic guides formed within each pair of facing plates, the pair of guides each being defined by

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a pair of aligned seats formed along respective sides of two respective facing plates; and characterized in that the plates are structurally identical in each pair of two.

There is no teaching or suggestions, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the clamp as disclosed by Grundy to have the above mentioned elemental features.

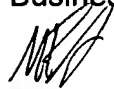
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MPF  
02/14/06



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